Chatham values and nurtures the arts and crafts to a level that would be remarkable even in a much larger population center. Artistic expression, art, and certainly a touch of sophistication reveal themselves to all those that seek it.

While Chatham's community of writers, artists, and craftspeople (both past and current) may be small compared to other artistic enclaves, they have made and continue to make a large and lasting impact on the Town as a whole. Although some of the artists and writers listed below may now belong to other communities, they still have undeniably strong ties to Chatham.

Laura Hankins Adcock, jazz vocalist

Laura White Alderson, journalist, writer, poet, and publicist, of Raleigh, NC

Norman Amos, woodcarver

Frank Andrews, artist in leaded glass

Jesse Andrews, photographer

Beatrice Baldwin, artist

Laura Bradley, artist

Sara Hunt Briggs, artist

Ann Fox Casada, writer

Dr. Jim Casada, historian, outdoorsman, writer, columnist, and editor

Maud Carter Clement (1879-1969), historian and writer

Kimberly Ryan Clifton, writer and columnist

Joseph F. "Rick" Cline, historian and writer

Nancy Compton, artist

Dr. William B. Crawley, Jr., historian and writer

Carson Davenport, artist

Tim Davis, journalist, writer, editor

Arthur de Ponceau, poet

Elsabee Dixon, ceramic artist

Roger Dodson, historian and writer

Carolyn Thompson Dudley, art psychotherapist

Kaye Jackson Elliott, television and radio writer, producer, graphical artist, and on-screen personality

Ward Elliott, musician and master instrument maker

Bev Emerson, musician

Claudia Emerson, poet

Madalene Vaden Fitzgerald, writer and historian

Vernon Geyer (1921-2001), geologist and sculptor

Jeff Guenther, artist

Barbara Hall, writer, producer, singer, and songwriter

Karen Hall, writer, producer

William T. Hathaway, naturalist and writer

Charles Hawkins, artist, sculptor, and Chatham's state senator

Dr. Jay Hayes, historian and writer

Wyatt C. Hedrick (1888-1964), architect

Wilson G. Hibble, artist

Chris Hughes, historian and author

Farida Hughes, artist (paintings and works on paper)

Frances Hallam Hurt, writer and dramatist

Henry Hurt, editor and writer

Cary James, architect and writer

Helen James, artist, illuminator, and quilter

Estelle Jefferson, artist

Langhorne Jones, Sr., jurist, historian and writer

Sue Kottwitz, jewelry designer

Kenyon McCann, writer and dramatist

Hugh D. McCormick (1903-1998), historian and writer

Dr. Edgar Melton, historian and writer

Herman Melton, historian and writer

Dr. James Melton, historian and writer

William Melton, filmmaker and administrator

Alice Meyer, artist

Joe Miller, artist and graphic designer

Robin Lawrence Mildrum, artist

Henry H. Mitchell, editor, writer, and artist

Patricia B. Mitchell, food history writer

Preston B. Moses (1908-1996), editor, artist

Louise McCormick Motley, artist

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), artist

Lucille Mabel Walthall Payne, writer

Tom Royster, photographer

Fillmore H. Sanford (1914-1967), psychologist, author, editor

R. Nevitt Sanford (1909-1995), psychologist, author

Paul Shelton (1915-1998), master saddlemaker

Ricky Van Shelton, musician and writer

Landon Spradlin, musician and evangelist

Mary Tallent, writer

Ann Taylor, newscaster

Mark Thomas, journalist, writer

Estes Thompson, journalist, editor

Gloria Hall Thompson, artist

L. J. Toler, journalist

Agnes Fulcher Tune, artist

Estelle Ironmonger Tyler, historian and writer

Michiel VanDerSommen, sculptor

Ellen Bryant Voigt, poet

Biff Watson, musician

Jim Watson, musician, and writer

Dr. Thomas L. Watson (1871-1924), geologist and writer

Christine Whitehead, artist and cancer therapist
Harriet Whitehead, research analyst, anthropologist, and writer
John Hurt Whitehead, photographer and writer
Mary Elizabeth Whitehead, musician
James Womack, master saddlemaker
Susan Worley, journalist, writer
Jerry Wyatt, actor, vocalist, and teacher/director/producer
Jonathan Yardley, writer, book critic, columnist
S. Dail Yeatts, educator, historian